



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Found Guilty of Using Gun to Assault and Threaten Girlfriend and her Family

WASHINGTON - A 38-year-old District of Columbia man, Derrick Arthur, was found guilty by a D.C. Superior Court jury on July 7, 2009, of two counts of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Previously Convicted Felon, Obstruction of Justice and other related charges, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck on October 5, 2009. Under the voluntary sentencing guidelines, the defendant is facing a minimum term of imprisonment of 20½ years.

According to evidence presented at trial, on December 10, 2005, Arthur got into an argument with his then-girlfriend while at her mother's apartment at 2801 Jasper Street, SE. At approximately 4:30 a.m., the defendant assaulted his girlfriend by pulling her hair and punching her. When his girlfriend's mother intervened, the defendant punched her too. The defendant then refused to leave the apartment until he had all of his belongings, so the girlfriend returned some items to him, including a pistol and a shotgun. The defendant pointed the pistol at several family members who were in the home and threatened to kill them all if anyone called the police. The defendant then continued to assault his girlfriend and her mother.

Eventually, the defendant pulled his girlfriend out of the house by her hair, while pointing the gun at his girlfriend's mother and threatening to kill her if she followed him outside. The defendant took his girlfriend to a nearby parking lot and fired the pistol into the ground in the direction of her leg. The defendant and his girlfriend then left in the defendant's car. The next day, the defendant and his girlfriend were located at a hotel on New York Avenue, NE. The police surrounded the hotel, but the defendant escaped, eluding police capture until his arrest three years later.

In announcing the verdict, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his appreciation to Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective Elmer Baylor, Jr. He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Nicole Lee, Paralegal Specialist Jason Manuel, Victim Advocate Maria

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Shumar, and Law Clerk Jason Gumer, along with Assistant U.S. Attorneys Rikki McCoy, who conducted the initial stage of the grand jury investigation, and Cassidy Kesler Pinegar, who indicted and prosecuted the case at trial.

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